

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10
PA-01 ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----090703 111754Z /11

O 111730Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4200
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 16171

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: TASS AND SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF SHCHARANSKIY,
GINZBURG, AND FILATOV TRIALS

1. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE CONTINUING
TASS COVERAGE, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN,
OF THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKIY, GINZBURG AND FILATOV.

2. REGARDING THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE:

-- THE TASS COVERAGE FOR LATE JULY 10 AND JULY 11 HAS
BEEN IDENTICAL TO THE OFFICIAL BRIEFINGS GIVEN THE
WESTERN PRESS; TASS HAS BEGUN TO EDITORIALIZE, POINTING
OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, ON JULY 10 THAT "ONE CAN SEE FROM
SHCHARANSKIY'S EXPLANATIONS THAT HIS HOSTILE ACTIVITY
WAS SUBORDINATED . . . TO DERIVING AT ANY PRICE
POLITICAL CAPITAL BY DISCREDITING THE PRINCIPLES OF
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SOVIET DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY;"

-- THE MID-DAY TASS ACCOUNT JULY 11 REFRAINED
FROM NAMING FOREIGNERS WITH WHOM SHCHARANSKIY HAD
CONTACT, SPEAKING INSTEAD OF "A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT,
WHO, AS ESTABLISHED BY COMPETENT BODIES, IS AN AGENT
OF ONE OF THE WESTERN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES"

(OBVIOUSLY, ROBERT TOTH);

-- TASS MAKES CLEAR THE PROSECUTION IS CLAIMING THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF SHCHARANSKIY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOTH'S REPORTING ON SOVIET SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES INVOLVED "CLASSIFIED" INFORMATION;

-- TASS ALSO REFERS TO "NUMEROUS MATERIAL EVIDENCE," INCLUDING "A LETTER FROM ANOTHER AGENT OF A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" (UNDOUBTEDLY THE LETTER FROM ROBERT WATERS TO TOTH), A "SPECIAL QUESTIONNAIRE" CONTAINING A LIST OF QUESTIONS OF AN INTELLIGENCE NATURE (NEW TO US), AND "OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ON THE STAY IN THE USSR OF FOREIGNERS WITH WHOM SHCHARANSKIY HAD CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS AND ON THEIR COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES" (THIS COULD INVOLVE FORMER EMBOFFS LEVITSKY AND PRESEL, BUT THUS FAR TASS HAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED THE COUNTRY FOR WHICH SHCHARANSKIY ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED ESPIONAGE).

3. ON GINZBURG:

-- TASS LATE JULY 10 EDITORIALIZED REGARDING THE TESTIMONY AGAINST GINZBURG, STATING THAT WITNESS FYODOROV "CONVINCINGLY TESTIFIED" THAT GINZBURG CONFIDENTIAL

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GAVE MONEY ONLY TO THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OR FULFILLED GINZBURG'S CRIMINAL ASSIGNMENTS;

-- TASS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE TESTIMONY GENERALLY "CONFIRMED THE COMPETENCE OF THE CHARGES" AGAINST GINZBURG.

4. ON FILATOV:

-- A LENGTHY TASS ITEM LATE JULY 10 PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON FILATOV AND HIS ALLEGED RECRUITMENT, BUT IDENTIFIES NEITHER THE COUNTRY NOR THE "FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" FOR WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY WORKED;

-- TASS DOES CLAIM THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO THE USSR FROM ABROAD, HE MAINTAINED "CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS" WITH THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

5. COMMENT: TASS CAN ALWAYS BE COUNTED UPON TO DISPLAY REMARKABLE AUDACITY IN ACHIEVING ITS PROPAGANDA AIMS. AS EARLIER REPORTED, ON JULY 9 TASS

COMMENTATOR PETROV SCOLDED U.S. NEWS MEDIA FOR
PREJUDGING THE SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG TRIALS.
AS THE ABOVE TASS ACCOUNTS MAKE CLEAR, IN THE
EYES OF SOVIET OFFICIALDOM, WHERE SOVIET TRIALS ARE
CONCERNED IT IS APPARENTLY OBJECTIONABLE TO PREJUDGE
INNOCENCE, BUT PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT TO PREJUDGE
GUILT.

6. TASS' RETICENCE SPECIFICALLY TO IMPLICATE
TOTH, U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS, THE CIA OR DIA, OR

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PA-01 ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----090751 111754Z /11

O 111730Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4201

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 16171

LIMDIS

EVEN THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY, MAY REFLECT A
SOVIET DESIRE NOT TO COMPLICATE UNDULY THE
VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS IN GENEVA . IT MAY ALSO
REFLECT A DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AN APPEARANCE
OF LEGAL PROPRIETY UNTIL THE SENTENCES HAVE BEEN
PRONOUNCED. THE SOVIETS MAY ATTEMPT TO HAVE
THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS BY HANDING DOWN SENTENCES,
AND PULLING OUT THE PROPAGANDA STOPS, AFTER THE
GENEVA TALKS HAVE CONCLUDED. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW16171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780283-1144
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780774/aaaackoq.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdf4ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2052285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TASS AND SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF SHCHARANSKIY, GINZBURG, AND FILATOV TRIALS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SOPN, UR, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdf4ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014